



**Marked-Up Copy**  
Serial No: 09/511,316  
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IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend Claims 15, 19, 26 and 27 as in the attached marked-up copy to read as follows:

--15. (Amended) The alkali metal-containing niobate-based piezoelectric sintering material composition according to claim 13, wherein said solid solution is represented by a composition formula  $\text{Li}_x(\text{K}_{1-y}\text{Na}_y)_{1-x}(\text{Nb}_{1-z}\text{Ta}_z)\text{O}_3$ , wherein  $x = 0.001$  to  $0.2$ ,  $y = 0$  to  $0.8$ ,  $z = [1] \text{ } 0$  to  $0.4$ .

19. (Amended) A method for producing an alkali metal-containing niobate-based piezoelectric sintering material composition, comprising:

adding an additive powder containing at least one element selected from the group consisting of Cu, Li and Ta to a powder of niobate represented by formula  $\text{ANbO}_3$ , wherein A is an alkali metal, then blending these powders together;

molding said [mixture] blended powders and sintering the same.

26. (Amended) The alkali metal-containing niobate-based piezoelectric material composition according to claim 15, wherein  $x = 0$  to  $0.1$ ,  $y = 0$  to  $0.8$ ,  $z = 0$  to  $0.4$ , exclusive of  $(x = 0, z = 0)$ ,  $(x = [0.8] \text{ } 0.08$  to  $0.1, z = 0)$ ,  $(x = 0.1, z = 0.2)$ ,  $(x = 0.1, z = 0.3)$ ,  $(x = 0.08$  to  $0.1, z = 0.4)$  for piezoelectric constant ( $d_{31}$ ).

27. (Amended) The alkali metal-containing niobate-based piezoelectric material composition according to claim 15, wherein  $x = 0$  to  $0.1$ ,  $y = 0$  to  $0.8$ ,  $z = 0$  to  $0.4$ , exclusive of  $(x = 0, z = 0)$ ,  $(x = 0.06$  to  $0.1, z = 0)$ ,  $(x = 0.1, z = 0.1)$ ,  $(x = 0.08$  to  $0.1, z = 0.2)$ ,  $(x = 0, z$

= 0.3), [(x = 0, z = 0.3),] (x = 0.08 to 0.1, z = 0.3), (x = 0 to 0.02, z = 0.4), (x = 0.08 to 0.1, z = 0.4) for electromechanical coupling factors (kp).--